

REMARKS

In the March 21, 2008 Office Action, the specification was objected to and claims 1-20 stand rejected in view of prior art. Claims 6, 7, 11-13 and 20 also were rejected for failing to indicate and claim particularly and distinctly the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the March 21, 2008 Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification and claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 20 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Foreign Priority

In the numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the receipt of the certified copy of the foreign priority application was acknowledged.

Applicant submits herewith an English translation of Japanese Application No. 2004-082299 to perfect the foreign priority claim. Applicant believes that the English translation of the certified copy of the priority document (Japanese Application No. 2004-082299) submitted herewith is true and accurate translation of the priority document.

Applicant believes claims of the present application are fully supported by the disclosure of Japanese Application No. 2004-082299. Thus, Applicant believes claims of the present application are entitled to benefit of the filing date of Japanese Application No. 2004-082299 (March 22, 2004) under 35 U.S.C. §119.

Specification

In the numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to for the informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to correct the typographical error as suggested in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In numbered paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 11-13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 20 to clarify claims 6, 7, 11-13 and 20.

Specifically, claim 6 has been amended to recite the gearset of the second gearsets positioned farthest from the engine is a fourth gear gearset as suggested by the Office Action.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite the gearset positioned closest to the engine is a sixth gear gearset as suggested by the Office Action.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify that the specialized interlocking mechanism is specialized for enabling appropriate transmission of the gearset positioned closest to the engine.

Claim 12 has been also amended to recite a fourth gear gearset corresponds to the gearset positioned farthest from the engine and a sixth gear gearset corresponds to the gearset positioned closest to the engine in order to clarify the farthest and the closet gearsets are the fourth gear and sixth gear gearsets, respectively, as suggested by the Office Action.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite the first and second input shafts as suggested by the Office Action.

Applicant believes that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the numbered paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,243,565 to Soeda (hereinafter “Soeda patent”).

In response, Applicant herewith submits an English translation of the earlier Japanese priority Application No. 2004-201882 to perfect the foreign priority claim. Thus, Applicant believes the effective date of the Soeda publication is overcome by Applicant’s earlier Japanese priority application. More specifically, Applicant believes claims of the present application are entitled to benefit of the filing date of Japanese Application No. 2004-201882 (March 22, 2004) under 35 U.S.C. §119. Thus, the rejection over the Soeda patent is believed to be overcome because the Japanese priority date of the present application (March 22, 2004) is earlier than the U.S. filing date (March 9, 2005) of the Soeda patent (MPEP 2136.03 and 2136.05).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicant believes that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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